

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08240 060941Z
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E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : EINV, NI
SUBJ : BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS PROGRESS REPORT:
ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY/LIAISON OFFICE

1. ONE APRIL 26 CONFERENCE WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK, DUPONT AND UNITED TECHNOLOGIES BOTH RAISED QUESTION OF SETTING UP LIAISON OFFICES IN NIGERIA WHICH WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM IZZAUSORATION#REQUIREMENTS FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF OFFICE WAS TO ASSESS NIGERIAN MARKET AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PARTNERS.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES PERMSEC ALHAJI INFORMED DUPONT EXECUTIVE THAT HEAD OF STATE PERSONALLY ENDORSED CONCEPT AND THAT COMPANY WOULD MAKE PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

2. ON JULY 4 ALHAJI TOLD ECON CONSUSELOR THAT PROPOSAL FOR SUCH OFFICES HAD FORMALLY GONE THROUGH COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE AND HAD RECEIVED THE COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL. IT HAD NOW GONE TO FEC AND FORMAL FINAL ACCEPTANCE WAS EXPECTED SHORTLY. ALHAJI REITERATED THAT GENERAL OBASANJO FULLY BACKED CONCEPT. MINISTRY WILL INFORM EMBASSY AS SOON AS FEC STAMPS APPROVAL. MINISTRY WILL THEN ESTABLISH PROCEDURE FOR U.S. FIRM TO FOLLOW.

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EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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